

DOCKET NO.: 212903US3

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :

OSAMU KAKINUMA :

EXAMINER: BOCHNA, D.

SERIAL NO: 09/956,912 :

FILED: SEPTEMBER 21, 2001 :

GROUP ART UNIT: 3679

FOR: BRANCH PIPE JOINT AND  
METHOD OF CONNECTING PIPES  
USING THE PIPE JOINT :

10/24/03 (M.W.)  
20  
5-12-03

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AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated February 3, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 23 and 28.

19. (Amended) A branch pipe joint for a plurality of refrigerant pipes having different outer diameters of a multi-unit type air conditioner, comprising:

a branch pipe joint body having a hollow closed shape;

a plurality of communication ports provided in said branch pipe joint body, said communication ports having the same inner diameter as each other;

a plurality of connecting pipes through which refrigerant can separately flow, each of said connecting pipes having one end portion firmly fixed to said communication port in a state of being fitted to said communication port and another end portion firmly fixed to one of the plurality of refrigerant pipes having different outer diameters of the multi-unit type air

okay to enter for

Docket No. 212903US3  
IN RE APPLICATION OF: Osamu KAKINUMA  
SERIAL NO: 09/956,912  
FILED: September 21, 2001  
FOR: BRANCH PIPE JOINT AND METHOD OF CONNECTING PIPES USING THE PIPE JOINT

"RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116-  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE EXAMINING  
GROUP 3671"

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:  
Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

- ☐ No additional fee is required
- ☒ Small entity status of this application under 37 C.F.R. §1.9 and §1.27 is claimed.
- ☒ Additional documents filed herewith: Marked-up Copy  
Information Disclosure Statement  
PTO-Form 1449  
Cited References (5)  
European Search Report dated 3/11/03

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The Fee has been calculated as shown below:

CLAIMS	CLAIMS REMAINING		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID	NO. EXTRA CLAIMS	RATE	CALCULATIONS
TOTAL	8	MINUS	20	0	x \$18 =	\$0.00
INDEPENDENT	2	MINUS	4	0	x \$84 =	\$0.00
		<input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS			+ \$280 =	\$0.00
		TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS				\$0.00
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reduction by 50% for filing by Small Entity				\$0.00
		<input type="checkbox"/> Recordation of Assignment			+ \$40 =	\$0.00
		TOTAL				\$0.00

- ☒ A check in the amount of **\$180.00** is attached.
- ☒ Please charge any additional Fees for the papers being filed herewith and for which no check is enclosed herewith, or credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☒ If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time may be charged to Deposit Account No. 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Gregory J. Maier  
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